

Evaluation plan for Finland's CAP plan:

Approved on 16 June 2023

1. Objectives and needs

The evaluation plan describes the framework for the evaluation of Finland's CAP plan for the 2023–2027 the funding period. The purpose of the evaluation plan is to ensure the implementation of adequate and appropriate evaluation measures and, on this basis, to propose improvements and developments to the common agricultural policy from the Finnish perspective. The information produced by the evaluations conducted in accordance with the evaluation plan is needed to guide the implementation of the CAP plan and, in particular, to support the next CAP funding period. The evaluation plan ensures that sufficient information is available for the evaluation. The evaluation needs are based on the needs identified in the CAP plan and the objectives based on them. The evaluation plan takes into account environmental and climate policies, strategies and legislation, as the information acquired from evaluations provide data on how the objectives outlined in these can be achieved. The topics and schedule of the evaluations are described in more detail in Chapter 4.

The primary objective of the evaluations is to analyse effectiveness and thus ensure the cost-effective use of taxpayer funds. On the other hand, the evaluations analyse how coherently national measures function with those funded under CAP.

The evaluation plan is based on the effectiveness targets defined in Finland's CAP plan, which define and clarify the societal change that CAP funding aims to achieve. After this, the objectives have been compared to the needs of the CAP plan (50) and the direction in which the CAP is planned to impact the objectives has been identified. The term "success factor" is used to evaluate effectiveness. These success factors have also been compared to the recommended success factors in Annex 1 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1475. Based on this review, evaluation questions have been planned that take into account the intervention logic of the CAP plan and the criteria for evaluation provided in Article 140(1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 (effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and Union added value). More detail is given on these evaluations in Chapter 4 of this evaluation plan.

The following effectiveness targets have been set for the specific objectives and the cross-cutting objective:

SO 1 To secure sufficient income for farmer and secure food production

- CAP measures will maintain entrepreneurial income in agriculture at a level which will safeguard domestic food production

SO 2 To increase the competitiveness and quality of production

- CAP measures will contribute to improving competitiveness of agriculture a result of productivity growth and controlled structural change.

SO 3 To improve the market position of farmers

- The added value farmers get from their products increases through increased cooperation

SO 4 To mitigate and adapt to climate change

- In 2027, greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture will be 0.8 million tCO₂e less than in 2019 as a result of CAP measures. (Current state 15.0 million tCO₂e)

SO 5 To promote environmentally-sound management and protection of the environment

- In 2027, the nitrogen balance in agriculture will be less than 46 kg/ha and the phosphorus balance will be less than 5 kg/ha. (Current state 2016-2020 N 49.1 kg/ha, P 4.7 kg/ha)
- Ammonia emissions from agriculture will be 25.5 kt in 2027. (Current status in 2019 28.5 KB)

SO 6 To promote the preservation of biodiversity, habitats and landscape

- The share of traditional rural biotopes and natural pastures will be 75% of the management target* in 2027 when managed with the support of CAP. (*60,000 ha Management target proposed by the Heritage Landscapes Working Group)

SO7 To encourage young people in the sector, to facilitate rural business development

- By 2027, support will be provided for the start-up or diversification of the business of 2,700 new farmers.

SO 8 To promote rural employment, growth and local inclusion

- By 2027, companies and their locations in rural heartland areas, rural areas near cities and in sparsely populated rural areas will be more diversely placed in different sectors, measured by the number of sectors and companies.
- By 2027, 5,500 km of new, 1 Gbit/s high-speed optical fibre will have been built in the operating area
- By 2027, the average perceived quality of life of the population in rural heartland areas, rural areas close to cities and sparsely populated rural population has improved compared to the beginning of the funding period.

SO 9 To improve access to safe, healthy and sustainable nutrition, improve animal welfare and combat antimicrobial resistance

- The use of antimicrobials for production animals remains at the current controlled and low level. (total sales 2018: 18 mg/PCU)
- To safeguard security of supply by ensuring the supply of domestic food that meets consumer needs.

Cross-cutting objective: To promote competence, innovation and digitalisation

- The introduction of research, good practices and the development of expertise bring added value to farms and other rural enterprises.
- 100% of farms and other rural enterprises use digital technologies that are new for their farm or company, implement innovations or have participated in training or advisory services

The following common effectiveness indicator mentioned in Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 has been excluded from the evaluation of Finland's CAP plan:

- I.17 (Reducing the load on water resources: The Water Exploitation Index (WEI+) because Finland's CAP plan does not contain objectives and measures for water use

2. Governance and coordination

The evaluation plan has been prepared in cooperation with experts from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, the Finnish Food Authority and the Government of Åland. A working group will be set up to support the implementation of the evaluation plan. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry will be responsible for leading the working group. The governance and division of responsibilities for the evaluation and monitoring entity is as follows.

Party	Responsibilities and tasks
Managing authority, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The coordination of the CAP plan evaluation as a whole and overall responsibility for the process. - Annual outturn analysis based on output and result indicators data. - Planning of the evaluation and drawing up the evaluation plan. - Procurement processes for evaluations.

Working group supporting the implementation of the evaluation plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordination of the CAP plan evaluation as a whole, implementation of the evaluation plan and coordination of procurements. - Decides on evaluation questions to be included in evaluations (Chapter 4). - Discusses the evaluation's findings and recommendations and promotes their review by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry together with the parties responsible for management of the CAP plan and the Rural Network. Will ensure the review of recommendations at Commission annual review meetings in accordance with Article 5 of Regulation (EU) 2022/1475. - Will ensure that the evaluation's observations and recommendations are communicated to CAP plan actors. - Will promote cooperation between research and programme evaluation needs.
Monitoring committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will review the progress of evaluations, the synthesis of evaluations and the monitoring of results in accordance with Article 124(3) of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115. - Will approve the evaluation plan and its amendments in accordance with Article 124(4)(c) of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115. - Will take a stand on relevant evaluation topics or questions, participate in discussing the evaluation recommendations and in further actions.
Finnish Food Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collection, saving and reporting of output and result indicators.
Verification body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will ensure the accuracy of the reported output and result indicator data.
Provincial Government of Åland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluation of Åland's EAFRD measures
The Rural Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will provide training related to evaluation competence.
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's communicators and regional communicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Utilisation of evaluation recommendations and communication.

3. Stakeholder mapping

CAP evaluations and the different stages of the entire evaluation process involve several stakeholders with different information needs and approaches to the evaluation process. The evaluation process refers to the planning and implementation of evaluations, the production of data for an evaluation, and the utilisation and communication of evaluation recommendations. Stakeholders included in the evaluation process and their perspectives were examined in a stakeholder seminar held on 15 February 2023 and in a survey to the members of the CAP plan's monitoring committee. The evaluation process involves at least the following perspectives (Table 1).

Table 1. Possible perspectives through which stakeholders participate in the evaluation process.

Perspective	Explanation
How will the ELY Centre's regional plan support the objectives of the CAP plan.	Competence and/or interest in how the regional development plan drawn up in the ELY area supports and promotes the objectives of Finland's CAP plan.
Attainment of national environmental targets through CAP.	Interest and/or competence in how CAP as an instrument implements (or does not implement) national environmental objectives, such as the objective of good status of waters or the reduction of ammonia emissions from agriculture.

Attainment of national climate targets through CAP.	Interest and/or competence in how CAP as an instrument implements (or does not implement) national climate objectives, e.g. agriculture's objective to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 29% by 2035.
Attainment of international environmental targets through CAP;	Interest and/or competence in how Finland will implement (or will not implement) international environmental objectives, such as the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
Implementation of the regional development perspective at the national level through CAP.	Interest and/or competence in how CAP as an instrument implements (or does not implement) national regional development policies and how the CAP measures are targeted in terms of content and regions in relation to the Regional and Structural Policy Programme (Innovation and Skills in Finland 2021–2027).
Cost-effective use of public funds.	Interest and/or competence in how cost-effectively the CAP policy has been able to achieve its objectives.
Leader added value, efficiency of the local strategy.	Interest and/or competence in the added value of the Leader method or evaluation of local development strategies.
Performing the evaluation.	Competence in carrying out a policy effectiveness evaluation.
Planning the evaluation.	Competence in planning policy effectiveness evaluations, e.g. designing the evaluation framework, defining the task, utilisation of materials in the evaluation.
Making use of research, monitoring and/or statistical data to evaluate the CAP plan.	Competence and/or interest in making use of research and statistical data produced by research institutes such as Natural Resources Institute Finland, Finnish Environment Institute or the statistical authorities (Natural Resources Institute Finland, Statistics Finland) for the evaluation of the CAP plan.
Making use of the effectiveness results of the CAP plan in the activities of one's own organisation	Once the evaluation of the CAP plan has been completed, our organisation is interested in utilising its results in updating our competence, in our communications or in developing our operations.

The following parties were identified as stakeholders and their perspectives on the evaluation process (Table 2).

Table 2. Stakeholders related to the evaluation process and their perspectives.

STAKEHOLDER	THE PERSPECTIVE THAT IT IS USING TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE EVALUATION PROCESS
ELY Centre	How will the Regional Rural Development Plan support the objectives of the CAP plan; Making use of the effectiveness results of the CAP plan in the activities of one's own organisation; Making use of research, monitoring and/or statistical data to evaluate the CAP plan;

	Attainment of national environmental targets through CAP; Cost-effective use of public funds; Leader added value, efficiency of the local strategy; Planning the evaluation
Ministry of the Environment	Attainment of national environmental targets through CAP; Attainment of national climate targets through CAP; Attainment of international environmental targets through CAP; Making use of research, monitoring and/or statistical data to evaluate the CAP plan.
Ministry of Finance	Cost-effective use of public funds
Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment	Implementation of the regional development perspective at the national level through CAP; Cost-effective use of public funds; Planning the evaluation; Making use of research, monitoring and/or statistical data to evaluate the CAP plan
Leader groups	Leader added value, efficiency of the local strategy; Making use of the effectiveness results of the CAP plan in the activities of one's own organisation; How will the ELY Centre's Regional Rural Development Plan support the objectives of the CAP plan.
Consultancy firms	Performing the evaluation
Natural Resources Institute Finland	Attainment of national climate targets through CAP; Attainment of national environmental targets through CAP; Attainment of international environmental targets through CAP; Linking research and monitoring to the evaluation of the CAP plan; Performing the evaluation; Planning the evaluation; Making use of the effectiveness results of the CAP plan in the activities of one's own organisation; Leader added value, efficiency of the local strategy; Cost-effective use of public funds; Rural impacts
Finnish Environment Institute	Attainment of national environmental targets through CAP; Attainment of national climate targets through CAP; Attainment of international environmental targets through CAP; Linking research and monitoring to the evaluation of the CAP plan.
environmental organisations	Attainment of national environmental targets through CAP; Attainment of national climate targets through CAP;
other research institute or university	Attainment of national climate targets through CAP; Attainment of national environmental targets through CAP; Attainment of international environmental targets through CAP; Making use of the effectiveness results of the CAP plan in the activities of one's own organisation; Making use of research, monitoring and/or statistical data to evaluate the CAP plan; Planning the evaluation; Performing the evaluation
animal welfare organisations	Making use of the effectiveness results of the CAP plan in the activities of one's own organisation. Increased animal welfare through CAP

producer organisations	Attainment of national environmental targets through CAP; Attainment of national climate targets through CAP; Attainment of international environmental targets through CAP; Making use of the effectiveness results of the CAP plan in the activities of one's own organisation; Planning the evaluation; Cost-effective use of public funds; Leader added value, efficiency of the local strategy; How will the Regional Rural Development Plan support the objectives of the CAP plan;
schools, secondary and tertiary education	Making use of the effectiveness results of the CAP plan in the activities of one's own organisation
Municipalities (municipalities and municipality-owned organisations) and rural administration cooperation areas	Cost-effective use of public funds Utilising the opportunities and effectiveness results of the CAP plan in the activities of one's own organisation and in the development of the vitality of rural areas in municipalities, investments by municipalities in the development of rural areas and their livelihoods. Well-being, business, workplace and regional economic impacts and the measurement of these; Attainment of municipal climate and environmental targets through CAP; Added value to the municipality from Leader activities and municipal funding; The efficiency of the local Leader strategy and its compatibility with the municipal strategy; Municipalities and municipality-owned organisations as project actors and the attainment of objectives through CAP; Leader added value, efficiency of the local strategy and participation in this. Rural impacts; Attainment of national climate targets through CAP; Attainment of national environmental targets through CAP;
Regional councils	Cost-effective use of public funds How does the CAP plan, regional plans and Leader plans support the regional objectives/regional strategy?; Coordination of funds/financial instruments in the region; Well-being, business, workplace and regional economic impacts and the measurement of these; Attainment of regional climate and environmental targets through CAP; Leader added value, efficiency of the local strategy;
Advisory organisations	Attainment of national environmental targets through CAP; Attainment of national climate targets through CAP; Making use of the effectiveness results of the CAP plan in the activities of one's own organisation; Rural impacts
Finnish 4H Association	Leader added value, efficiency of the local strategy; How will the Regional Rural Development Plan support the objectives of the CAP plan; Making use of the effectiveness results of the CAP plan in the activities of one's own organisation;

Of the stakeholders in the monitoring committee, the Federation of Finnish Enterprises, the Finnish Confederation of Professionals (STTK) and the Finnish Organic Association did not recognise that they belonged to the stakeholder network of the evaluation plan.

Stakeholders were grouped in a fourfold table according to the extent of their participation in the evaluation process and their interest in the CAP plan as a tool for achieving the effectiveness targets (Figure 1). Attributes seen as evaluation competence included perspectives related to the conducting and planning of the evaluation and the utilisation of research and monitoring data. All others were classified as an interest in the CAP plan as an instrument.

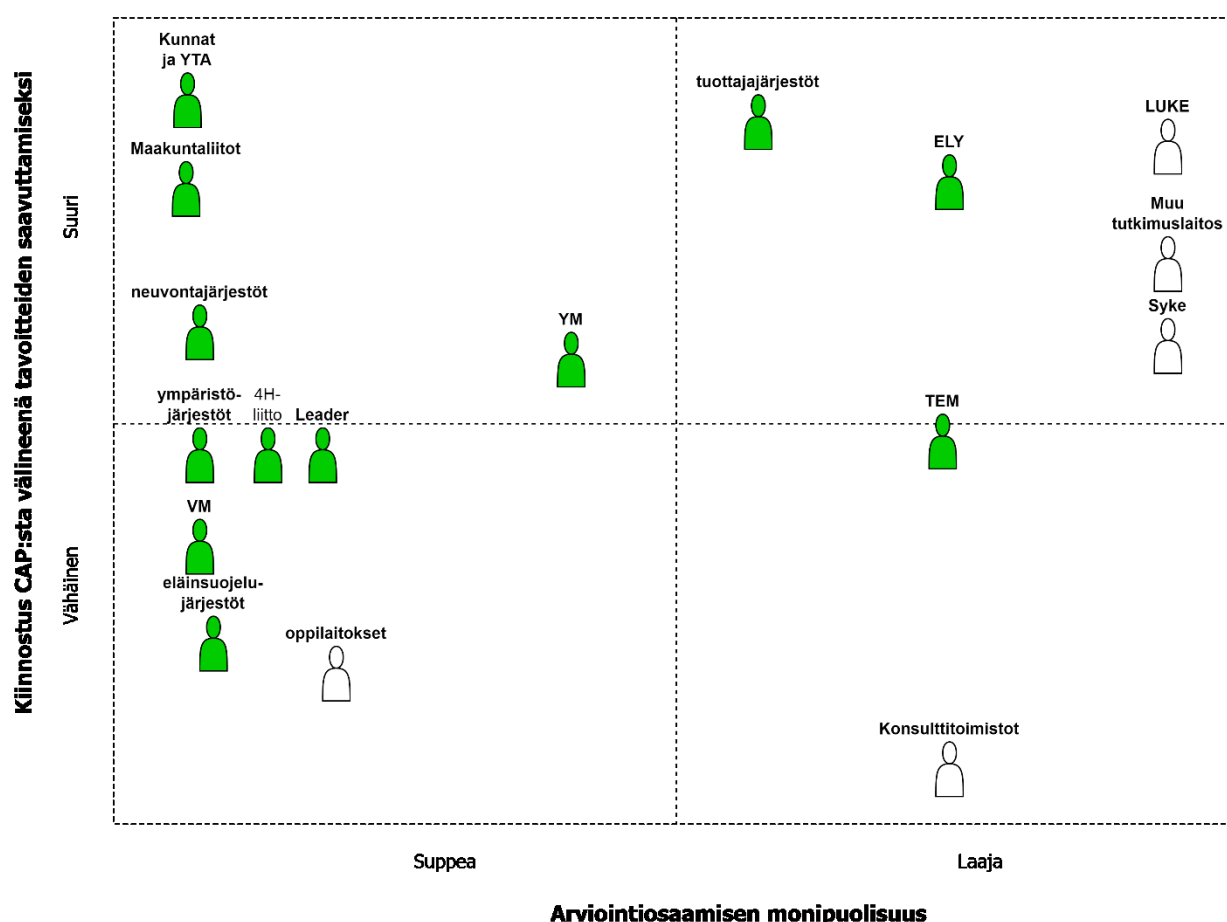


Figure 1. Evaluation stakeholders grouped by competence and interest. Members of the CAP Monitoring Committee highlighted in green.

The competence needs listed in the right upper quarter of the fourfold table (Figure 1) emphasise the need to clarify and open the intervention logic and effectiveness chains of the CAP plan in order to make full use of evaluation competence. Similarly, the possibilities of using different data sets and indicators should be clarified. More communication and information provision on completed CAP evaluations should be organised for the stakeholders listed on the left side of the fourfold table.

4. Timetable

There are three types of CAP plan evaluations. The majority of the evaluations are those that assess the effectiveness of the CAP plan during the funding period in accordance with the framework described in Chapter 1 (Chapter 4.1). The scheduling is based on the assumption that evaluations can:

- facilitate the development of CAP plan measures;
- provide materials for the discussion on the upcoming EU funding period;
- provide a knowledge base for the selections for the national preparation of the next CAP.

The second entity of the evaluations is thematic special topics that have been identified as key phenomena and topics to be evaluated at some point during the funding period (Chapter 4.2). These topics are such that they evaluate how instruments outside CAP or certain operating methods have worked or how CAP choices affected the development of the whole country. The

environmental and climate architecture mentioned in Article 2 of Regulation (EU) 2022/1475 is assessed as a whole as part of environmental effectiveness: its theme is Environmentally sustainable agricultural production. Evaluation of the added value of Leader activities is included in the evaluation theme Regional and local development.

The third entity is a description of other research and development measures implemented to support evaluations (Chapter 4.3).

4.1 Evaluations on the effectiveness of the CAP plan carried out during the funding period

The evaluation topics related to the specific objectives and the cross-cutting objective have been identified and compiled into five evaluation themes. Each theme contains various evaluation questions, that are related in particular to the effectiveness of the CAP plan. The wording of evaluation questions, where applicable, will also take into account other evaluation criteria outlined in Article 140(1) of Regulation 2021/2115, i.e. efficiency, relevance, coherence and Union added value. In addition to these evaluation questions, each evaluation may also include other evaluation questions that give more detail to and clarify the evaluation framework.

Continuity of agriculture and sustainable animal and plant production.

Three evaluations are carried out within the theme.

Evaluation name	specific objectives	Timetable
Profitability, competitiveness, adaptation to changing risks, of agriculture and opportunities for young farmers to start up	1, 2 and 4	2024-2027, interim report and final report
The role of producers in the value chain	3	2024-2026, interim report and final report
Animal welfare, health and biosecurity	9	2024-2026, interim report and final report

Food, food safety and consumer wishes.

One evaluation will be carried out within the theme.

Evaluation name	specific objectives	Timetable
A sustainable food system (consumer needs, openness of the food supply chain, security of supply, food waste)	1 and 9	2024-2026, one report

Environmentally sustainable agricultural production.

Three evaluations are carried out within the theme.

Evaluation name	specific objectives	Timetable
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Mitigating climate change in agriculture and reducing ammonia emissions	4 and 5	2024-2027, interim report and final report
Impacts from nutrient loading in agriculture to water and efficient utilisation of inputs	5	2024-2027, interim report and final report
Impacts on agricultural nature and genetic diversity	6	2024-2027, interim report and final report

Regional and local development.

The theme contains one evaluation.

Evaluation name	specific objectives	Timetable
Promotion of employment and entrepreneurship, as well as impacts on the well-being experienced by residents incl. Leader value added	7 and 8	2027

Competence development, dissemination of information and innovations.

The theme contains one evaluation.

Evaluation name	specific objectives	Timetable
Efficiency and effectiveness of development of competence, promotion of innovations and putting research data to use	LL	2025-2027, interim report and final report

The evaluation questions for each evaluation are agreed upon at the planning stage of the evaluation.

4.2 Special thematic topics of the Finnish CAP plan

The evaluations described in this Chapter are thematic assessments based, where applicable, on the topics mentioned in Article 2(d) of Regulation (EU) 2022/1475.

Evaluation name	Contents	Timetable
Evaluation of EAFRD measures under the competence of Åland	- Hur har åtgärderna naturbetesskötsel och riktade skötselåtgärder på naturbeten haet för effekter på naturens mångfald.	2024
	- Hur har åtgärden samarbete påverkat deltagande företags konkurrenskraft.	2026
	- Jämförelse av effektiviteten i genomförande av skötselåtgärder på naturbeten i jämförelse med icke produktiva investeringar för att främja naturens mångfald.	2027

Effectiveness of the agricultural risk management tools in use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How and to what extent has the risk management perspective integrated into CAP measures promoted the agricultural sector's ability to prevent the realisation of risks or to cope with the realised risks? Based on what is described in the CAP plan under Article 109 (2)(f) of Regulation (EU) 2021/2115. - Which risks are not detected or the measures targeted at these are not sufficient to manage the risk? 	2024
Effectiveness of rural network work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How has work by the rural network succeeded in identifying, disseminating and implementing the key results of CAP and reforming the network's activities? - How has the regional communicator model supported national communications, the flow of information and the sharing of good practices? 	2026-2027
Efficiency of the AKIS system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preliminary study on the AKIS system in Finland. - How has the Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS) worked? - How have research data, good practices and competence development been utilised in the field? - How has Finland's participation in EU research initiatives (e.g. Horizon Europe) increased as a result of AKIS activities? 	2024 2025
Evaluation of the promotion of the vitality of Eastern Finland together with structural funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How have different programmes and the CAP plan promoted the vitality of Eastern Finland during the strong change in the operating environment? - What good methods and practices are included in different programmes and the CAP plan? 	2027
Evaluation of the communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How have the key target groups, stakeholders and new applicants for subsidies been reached in CAP communications? - How has communication affected public debate, and the recognition of EU agricultural and rural funding? 	2025-2026

4.3 Studies and other development activities that support evaluations and aim to improve evaluations

In December 2022, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Ministry of the Environment published a multi-annual research necessity description Agri-environmental impact research programme MATO 2, one of the objectives of which is to produce information that enables a better evaluation of the effectiveness of agri-environmental policy and its measures (www.mmm.fi/mato2). The programme contains many research topics that would produce information for better evaluation of effectiveness.

Background materials for the sustainable food system evaluation will be made available from the research project funded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry "Food prospects: Ruokatulevaisuudet:

Näkymiä ja tekoja maatalouspolitiikan ja ruokajärjestelmän murroksissa (1 May 2023 - 31 December 2024 / 31 March 2025)". The aim of the study is to research the expectations of farmers and consumers concerning the sustainable food system and the changes that have taken place in them, as well as the matching of expectations.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry also funds policy-relevant research on the Agrifood Research and Development Fund, which supports the carrying out of evaluations.

The table below presents an indicative timetable for the different evaluation entities. The bar shows the duration of the evaluation and the balls describe the timing of the reports.

Total	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Three evaluations related to the continuity of agriculture and sustainable animal and plant production							
A sustainable food system							
Three evaluations related to environmentally sustainable agricultural production							
Assessment of regional and local development							
Efficiency and effectiveness of development of competence, promotion of innovations and putting research data to use							
Åland's EAFRD measures (4.2)							
Effectiveness of risk management tools (4.2)							
Effectiveness of the Rural Network (4.2)							
Efficiency of the AKIS system (4.2)							
Progress in the vitality of Eastern Finland (4.2)							
Evaluation of CAP communications (4.2)							
Studies supporting evaluations (4.3)							
Development activities related to evaluations (4.3)							
Ex-post evaluation of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020							
Ex-post evaluation of the CAP plan							

5. Data and information

The evaluations are based on quantitative output and result data stored in the Finnish Food Authority's information systems from subsidised sites. The outputs describe the number of supported sites, and result indicators are used to describe an individual supported site's share of the entity in question.

The measures are grouped in the CAP plan under the specific objectives (Chapter 1) and the result indicators measure progress at the level of specific objectives. Targets have been set for the result indicators that the CAP plan funding aims for (Table 3).

Table 3. Result indicators and target level of the CAP plan.

Number	Result indicator		Specific objective	Objective at the end of the period
R.1	(PR) Improving performance through knowledge and innovation, the number of people benefiting from advice, training or knowledge exchange supported by the CAP or participating in the European Innovation Partnership's (EIP) operational groups, with the objective of improving the results of sustainable, economic, social, environmental and climate action and resource efficiency.	CUM	LL	110,290
R.2	Linking of advisory services and information systems (number of advisors receiving support linked to the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS))	CUM	LL	1,000
R.3	Digitalisation of farming (Share of farms that receive CAP support for digital production technology)	CUM	LL	43.83 %
R.4	Linking if income support to measure requirements and good practices (Share of utilised agricultural land covered by income support and conditionality scheme (UAA))		SO 1	100.54 %
R.5	Risk management (Share of farms with supported CAP risk management tools)		SO 1	0.02 %
R.6	(PR) Redistribution to smaller farms (Percentage of complementary direct payments per hectare for eligible farms below average farm size (compared to average))		SO 1	97.69 %
R.7	(PR) Increasing support for farms in areas with special needs (Percentage of additional support per hectare in areas with higher needs (compared to average))		SO 1	100.00 %
R.8	Allocation to farms in specific sectors (Share of farms receiving coupled income support for improving competitiveness, sustainability or quality)		SO 1	33.99 %
R.9	(PR) Modernisation of farms (Share of farmers receiving investment support for restructuring and modernisation, including resource efficiency)	CUM	SO 2	6.57 %
R.10	(PR) Better organisation of the supply chain (Proportion of farms participating in producer groups, producer organisations, local markets, short supply chains and quality schemes supported by CAP)	CUM	SO 3	2.45 %
R.11	/ Fruit and vegetables - Concentration of supply (Share of the value of production marketed in certain sectors by producer organisations or groups of producers through operational programmes)		SO 3	21.45 %
R.12	Adaptation to climate change (Proportion of utilised agricultural area (UAA) covered by subsidised commitments contributing to climate change adaptation)		SO 4	64.61 %
R.13	(PR) Emission reduction in animal production (Proportion of livestock units covered by subsidised commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and/or ammonia emissions, including manure processing)		SO 4, SO 9	46.52 %
R.14	(PR) Carbon sequestration in soil and biomass (proportion of utilised agricultural area (UAA) under subsidised commitments to reduce emissions or to continue or increase carbon storage (e.g. permanent grassland, perennial crops forming permanent plant cover, wetland and peatland farmland))		SO 4	76.96 %

R.15	Renewable energy from agriculture, forestry and other renewable sources (Supported investments in renewable energy production capacity including bio-based energy (MW))	CUM	SO 4	365.00 MW
R.16	Climate-related investments (Share of farms receiving CAP investment support for climate change mitigation and adaptation, renewable energy or biomaterial production)	CUM	SO 4	4.16 %
R.19	(PR) Soil improvement and protection (Proportion of utilised agricultural area (UAA) covered by subsidised land management commitments to improve soil quality and increase soil biota (e.g. reduction of tillage, plant cover over soil, legume crop rotation))		SO 5	73.93 %
R.20	(PR) Improving air quality (Proportion of utilised agricultural area (UAA) covered by subsidised commitments to reduce ammonia emissions)		SO 5	17.59 %
R.21	(PR) Protection of water quality (Share of utilised agricultural area (UAA) covered by subsidised commitments on water quality)		SO 5	92.22 %
R.22	(PR) Sustainability of nutrient management (Proportion of utilised agricultural area (UAA) covered by subsidised commitments for improved nutrient management)		SO 5	18.91 %
R.24	(PR) Sustainable use of pesticides and reduction of their use (proportion of utilised agricultural area (UAA) under specific subsidised commitments aiming for the sustainable use of pesticides in order to reduce risks and impacts of pesticides, such as pesticide run-off)		SO 5	19.57 %
R.25	Environmental efficiency in animal production (Proportion of livestock units covered by subsidised commitments to improve environmental sustainability)		SO 5, SO 6	10.94 %
R.26	Investments in natural resources (Proportion of farms receiving CAP support related to natural resource management for both productive and non-productive investments)	CUM	SO 5	9.70 %
R.27	Environmental or climate efficiency through investments in rural areas (Number of actions contributing to environmental sustainability and achieving climate change mitigation and adaptation in rural areas)	CUM	SO 4, SO 5, SO 6	195
R.28	Environmental and climate efficiency through knowledge and innovation Number of people benefiting from CAP supported environmental and climate efficiency-related advice, training or knowledge exchange or participating in European Innovation Partnership (EIP) operational groups	CUM	LL	50,000
R.29	(PR) Development of organic farming (Proportion of utilised agricultural area (UAA) supported under the CAP for the maintaining and conversion to organic farming, broken down by these)		SO 6	19.44 %
R.31	(PR) Conservation of habitats and species (share of utilised agricultural area (UAA) covered by subsidised commitments for the protection or restoration of biodiversity, including agricultural practices with significant nature value)		SO 6	64.12 %
R.33	Improving the management of the Natura 2000 network (total share of Natura 2000 sites under commitments)		SO 6	0.48 %

R.36	(PR) Generational renewal (number of young farmers setting up a farm with CAP support, broken down by gender)	CUM	SO 1, SO 7	2,500
R.37	Growth and jobs in rural areas (Supported new jobs in projects)	CUM	SO 7	2,800
R.38	LEADER coverage (proportion of rural population covered by local development strategies)	CUM	SO 8	100 00 %
R.39	Development of the rural economy Number of rural and bioeconomy enterprises developed with CAP support	CUM	SO 2, SO 8	3,625
R.40	Smart transition of the rural economy Number of supported strategies for smart villages	CUM	SO 8	60
R.41	(PR) Connecting rural Europe Share of the rural population benefiting from better access to services and infrastructure through CAP support	CUM	SO 8	45 00 %
R.42	Promoting social inclusion (Number of persons in the scope of supported social inclusion projects)	CUM	SO 8	100
R.43	(PR) Restriction of the use of antimicrobials (proportion of livestock units affected by interventions to limit the use of antimicrobials (prevention/reduction))		SO 9	98 12 %
R.44	(PR) Improving the welfare of animals (Share of livestock units covered by supported action to improve animal welfare)		SO 9	98 12 %

As output and result indicators alone are not enough to assess effectiveness, other data will also be collected. National laws and government decrees concerning the CAP plan provide authorisation to the Finnish Food Authority to collect information related to the monitoring of the effectiveness of the measure from the applicant. More detailed information is collected especially on measures that are sought through the Hyrrä system. The information to be collected will be listed in connection with the evaluation questions. In addition to indicator data, evaluations require a lot of information acquisition (surveys, cross-run materials). These are essential for the evaluations in section 4.2.

The Natural Resources Institute Finland is responsible for ensuring that the national information on the EU's common effectiveness indicators is published on the Natural Resources Institute Finland's website. A national data source on which the value of the indicator is based has been determined for each effectiveness indicator. In addition to the EU's common effectiveness indicators, 27 national effectiveness indicators have been defined for the monitoring and use of the special features of Finland's CAP plan to assist in evaluation. Effectiveness indicators are mentioned in connection with evaluation questions.

In addition to the arrangements described above, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry identified that the state of agri-environmental monitoring required development. The Ministry negotiated with the Natural Resources Institute Finland on an entity for monitoring the state of agricultural nature. Based on this monitoring data, the changes caused by policy measures can be analysed using the evaluations. From the beginning of 2023, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has allocated a multiannual appropriation for these monitoring activities to the Natural Resources Institute's budget. Monitoring shows how the biodiversity and landscape structure of agricultural environments, nutrient emissions from agriculture, the amount of organic matter in arable land and greenhouse gases in farming develop.

In 2022, a preliminary study commissioned by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Ministry of the Environment also examined the network monitoring the nutrient loading to waters

from agriculture. According to the report, the monitoring network should be reorganised so that the sampling frequency at each catchment area would be sufficient, taking into account the extent of agricultural activity. Based on the preliminary study, the focus will be on e.g. MaaMet monitoring (Monitoring of diffuse loading in agriculture and forestry) again.

Key figures describing the development of rural areas have been compiled in the Rural Area Indicators database produced by Statistics Finland. The service contains information on the population and migration, the structure and functioning of the economy, living conditions and well-being as well as the environment. Each main theme contains one or more indicators. Information that is based on spatial data and is coordinate-based and complies with the urban-rural classification, and that identifies the types of regions, municipalities and support areas is updated at least annually. Most of the data are annual time series starting in 1988.

The Natural Resources Institute Finland strives to the best of its ability to support the use of its extensive monitoring data and analysis systems in the evaluation of the CAP plan. In accordance with its data disclosure practices, the Natural Resources Institute Finland may disclose its own data for use in evaluations so that data protection is preserved and personal data is not transmitted to third parties. An approach for streamlining the disclosure of data from the Natural Resources Institute Finland to external evaluators will be created for the needs of CAP plan evaluations.

6. Communication and monitoring

Communication is an integral part of evaluation and the dissemination of results. Communication on the progress of the evaluation, its recommendations and the results of evaluations included in the evaluation plan are carried out together with the administration, researchers and evaluators. The communication of an evaluation is planned at the same time as the preparation of the evaluation so that communication of the results is timely, suitable for the target groups and systematic.

General observations on the communication activities for the previous period of the Rural Development Programme:

- Main communications activities: press releases and news on the Maaseutu.fi and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry websites. Some of the press releases were relayed through media distribution, which increased reader numbers. Press releases were read by relatively few people, at the lowest, less than 70 readers, and at most less than 500 readers.
- The topics that drew the most interest were the results of evaluations, impacts on the regional economy and evaluations of environmental measures.
- Communication activities were fairly traditional, news and press releases. When communicating this period's evaluations, it would be a good idea to plan communications that are suitable for the target groups in order to disseminate the results better and more efficiently.

The communication of evaluations will be included in the CAP plan's communication plan. The communication plan also includes objectives for the communication of evaluations, provides detailed information on the role of regional and national actors, and lists the preliminary and planned communication activities and target groups related to each of the evaluation topics (Table 4).

The basis of these listed communications activities are press releases and news published on websites and social media. Media cooperation plays an important role in the dissemination of

evaluation results, which is why press releases are published for media distribution and media cooperation is carried out according to the topic of the evaluation before the publication of a press release. In addition to press releases and news, other activities included in evaluation communication may be stakeholder and media meetings, opinion papers or social media updates through targeted marketing.

Table 4. Communication channels and target groups of the evaluation plan.

Party	Main message	Possible responsibilities for communications	Channels
Managing authority, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	Awareness of the results of the evaluations.	Coordination, monitoring and planning of communications. Analysing the success of communication activities.	Memoranda and bulletins on evaluation recommendations, internal communication on evaluations.
Working group supporting the implementation of the evaluation plan	Awareness of the progress of evaluations and communication activities	Awareness of communication activities.	Follow-up meetings
Monitoring committee	Taking corrective action based on evaluation recommendations	None.	Meetings 2/year, Maaseutu.fi
Finnish Food Authority (incl. communications personnel)	Awareness of the results of the evaluations, awareness of the progress of the evaluations and of communication activities	Communication of evaluations. Analysing the success of communication activities.	Meetings, Memoranda and press releases on recommendations for evaluations, Internal communications
Provincial Government of Åland	Awareness on the progress, results and communication activities of the evaluation of rural development in the Åland Islands.	Coordination, monitoring and planning of communications. Analysing the success of communication activities.	Memoranda and bulletins on evaluation recommendations, internal communications, follow-up meetings.
Rural Network (incl. communicators)	Awareness of the results of evaluations, progress of evaluations and communication activities. Training and competence development.	Communication on evaluations in line with training activities. Analysing the success of communication activities.	Memoranda and bulletins on recommendations for evaluations.
Regional communicators	Awareness of the results of evaluations, awareness of communication activities.	Regional communication of evaluations. Analysis of the success of regional communication activities.	Memoranda and bulletins on evaluation recommendations, instructions for forwarding recommendations.
Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke).	Awareness of the results of the evaluations and progress of evaluations.	Communications concerning the evaluations together with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry if Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke) is the party conducting the evaluation.	Memoranda and bulletins on recommendations for evaluations, follow-up meetings.
Statistics Finland	Awareness of the results of the evaluations.	None.	Memoranda and bulletins on recommendations for evaluations.
Finnish Environment Institute	Awareness of the results of the evaluations and progress of evaluations.	Communications concerning the evaluations together with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry if the Finnish Environment Institute is	Memoranda and bulletins on recommendations for evaluations, follow-up meetings.

the party conducting the evaluation			
External consultants and research institutes	Awareness of the results of the evaluations and progress of evaluations.	Communications concerning the evaluations together with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry if the party conducting the evaluation	Memoranda and bulletins on recommendations for evaluations, follow-up meetings.

The communication activities and main messages planned for stakeholders are compiled in the communication plan.

The working group supporting the implementation of the evaluation plan will prepare the review of recommendations and the introduction of the recommendations (Chapter 2). A tool will be prepared for the use of the working group and the managing authority to monitor the utilisation of the evaluation recommendations and to promote the discussion of the recommendations in the monitoring committee.

7. Resources, technical support and building of capabilities

The evaluation of regional rural development plans and local development strategies will be supported by organising training for ELY Centres and Leader group experts to strengthen their evaluation competence and by drawing up common templates/models for preparing regional and local evaluations. At the beginning of the funding period, an effectiveness model for Leader activities will be prepared together with the Leader groups. The aim will be to describe the added value of Leader activities more clearly and systematically: how it improves local governance, strengthens social capital and produces better results from funded projects.

A joint seminar will be organised on completed evaluations where regional and local evaluations will be presented and observations will be discussed. ELY Centres are encouraged to carry out the evaluation of regional plans as a joint project between several ELY Centres.

According to the stakeholder analysis (Chapter 3), it is necessary to organise training on the intervention logic of the CAP plan for potential evaluators and those stakeholders with more competence in evaluation in order to produce more competence in the evaluation of the CAP. The training needs are implemented through the Rural Network and agreed upon in connection with the Rural Network's action plan.

EUR 3.4 million (Mainland Finland's share) and EUR 50,000 (Åland's share) has been reserved for CAP plan technical assistance for the evaluations described in the evaluation plan, which is distributed within this evaluation plan as follows:

Indicative plan on the allocation of funding

Evaluation name	Monetary reserve (maximum)
Profitability, competitiveness, adaptation to changing risks, of agriculture and opportunities for young farmers to start up	350,000
The role of producers in the value chain	100,000
Animal welfare, health and biosecurity	200,000
A responsible food system	200,000
Mitigating climate change in agriculture and reducing ammonia emissions	300,000
Impacts from nutrient loading in agriculture to water and efficient utilisation of inputs	300,000
Impacts on agricultural nature and genetic diversity	200,000
Opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship, as well as impacts on residents' well-being	350,000
Efficiency and effectiveness of development of competence, promotion of innovations and putting research data to use	200,000
Effectiveness of the agricultural risk management tools in use	100,000
Effectiveness of rural network work	100,000
Effectiveness of the AKIS system	150,000
Assessment of the promotion of the vitality of Eastern Finland together with structural funds	100,000
Evaluation of the communication operating model	100,000
Evaluation of EAFRD measures under the competence of Åland (*Technical assistance to Åland)	50,000*
Ex post evaluation	350,000
Reports supporting the evaluation and the management of the plan etc.	300,000
TOTAL	3,450,000

In addition, agri-environmental monitoring and monitoring of diffuse loading in agriculture and forestry are financed from national funds. The rural indicator service is funded separately from the technical assistance provided in the CAP plan.